

Application No.: 09/994,934Docket No.: 30004710-02 US (1509-250)**REMARKS**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-5 and 9-11 are pending, claims 6-8 and 12-15 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer in the Preliminary Amendment filed May 17, 2004. Claims 1 and 9 are independent.

Claims 1, 2, 3, 5 and 9 are amended. Page 2 of the specification is amended to be consistent with the claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to overcome the rejection thereof as being anticipated by Trower, II, et al. (U.S. 5,983,190) and claim 9 has been amended to overcome the rejection thereof as being obvious as a result of Wille et al. in view of Trower, II, et al. Trower, II, et al. discloses a client-server arrangement in which the server is arranged to provide animation services for the client. The client is typically a computer connected to a network (see column 35, lines 61-67) and will, therefore, have a network interface which inherently stores a network address of the computer. According to column 23, lines 32-35, the client can invoke a speak method of the animation server to cause the server to generate speech output for a specified text string, the speech output being digitized audio which is returned to the client for output.

Claim 1 of applicant's application requires a device including a network interface for interfacing the device with a computer network, the network interface including a memory arranged to store a network address of the device; and a speech synthesizer arranged to read said network address from the network interface and to speak said network address in number form. Claim 9 of applicant's application is directed to a method of outputting the computer address of a device by retrieving the current network address of the device from a memory of a network interface of the device and outputting the retrieved network address in spoken form from a speech synthesizer that operates independently of the network to speak the retrieved network

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address in spoken number form. Claim 1 includes a similar limitation by requiring the speech synthesizer to be arranged to operate independently of the network to speak the network address. Because the Trower, II, et al. speech synthesizer is in the server the Trower, II, et al. speech synthesizer does not operate independently of the network while the synthesizer speaks the network address. Obviously, the foregoing limitation concerning the speech synthesizer is also not found in Wille et al. because, as stated in the office action, the Wille et al. arrangement has no speech synthesizer for speaking a network address in number form. Applicants, by employing a speech synthesizer that operates independently of the network to speak the network address avoids the necessity to transmit the speech data over the network.

Claims 4 and 5 are improperly rejected based on 35 U.S.C. §102. The Examiner admits these claims differ from Trower, II, et al. A proper rejection based on 35 U.S.C. §102 requires *all* limitations to be found in a single reference. Limitations cannot be ignored because they are design choices. Further, dismissing the limitations of claims 4 and 5 misses the point: The restriction of the speech synthesizer vocabulary to the minimum required to speak IP addresses (and the further restriction to English) is a reflection of the dedicated nature of the speech synthesizer and a recognition that savings in cost and technical complexity can be achieved, thereby making incorporation of the invention into various devices that much more attractive.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested and deemed in order.

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To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including application processing, extra claims, and extension fees, to Deposit Account 08-2025, and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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